

300 of Russia's Top Operatives Are Summoned to the Kremlin

Shakedown On Links to Dead Traitor

By James E. Warner
Herald Tribune News Service

Russian intelligence chiefs are so shaken up over Western penetration of their ranks that they have summoned at least 300 of their top operatives back to Moscow for "consultation," it has been learned.

Two men have been called back to the Kremlin from Washington, and at least three more are slated to leave. One attache has been recalled from Ottawa. Others have been recalled from posts all over the world.

Whether any of them will be returned to their posts after examination by their superiors in Moscow remains to be seen.

Apparently every Russian attache or civilian intelligence employee who had any contact at any time anywhere in the world with Col. Vladimir F. Penkovsky, executed last week as a traitor in the latest Moscow spy case, has been summoned home. There is little doubt that the colonel, a top man in Soviet intelligence, was in fact a double agent, dealing with the West, as the Russians themselves charged.

Also Fear FBI

It was equally apparent that in calling their men home the Russians feared not only the British and French secret services and the American Central Intelligence Agency, but also the American Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The CIA operates outside the United States around the world; the FBI keeps tabs on espionage within this country, which makes the recall of two men—with more to come—from the Soviet Embassy here, extremely significant as to the importance put upon the Penkovsky case by the Kremlin.

This information was obtained from sources both here and abroad which cannot be named, but which are considered unimpeachable.

Few, if any, of the 300 Russians recalled for questioning and possible death penalties such as that given Col. Penkovsky, were declared persona non grata by their host governments. The Soviet Union began calling back its own people on its own initiative, indicating the fear of further penetration.

Golsov Recalled April 1

Recalled from the Soviet Embassy in Washington April 1 was Lt. Col. Arkadi Y. Golsov, assistant air attache. Also gone home is Olegsey Kolchin, formerly employed in the Embassy's military attache office, who may or may not have been a civilian.

First to go home to Moscow, when the Penkovsky case started to break, was Col. Anatoli F. Rybackov, assistant air attache at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

He and the others are known to have had professional contacts with the late Col. Penkovsky in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world where the executed officer served.